United Nations S/2018/1158

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 26 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following:

In another violation of internationally recognized resolutions, and in furtherance of racist and expansionist Israeli policies, the occupying Israeli authorities have stolen additional land in the occupied Syrian Golan in order to set up a "wind-farm" project to generate electrical power. Our people in the Golan launched a popular campaign to oppose the project, firmly rejecting it on the grounds that it would imperil public health, the environment and agricultural land, and that it would do great harm to prevailing patterns of life.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns all Israeli practices and provocations aimed at controlling and plundering the resources of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, in flagrant violation of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and of the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Israel continues to deplete the natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and deprive the territory's inhabitants of the ability to benefit from their natural resources. Israel is now entrenching this project on land seized from its Syrian owners in the occupied Golan, land that was and remains the livelihood of our people in the Golan.

Today, this new provocation has forced the Syrian Arab population of the Golan to take a stand against this latest acquisition of their land and natural resources, as the Israeli project, which is contrary to international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, will have catastrophic health, economic and environmental repercussions for Syrian civilians living in the area.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the occupied Syrian Golan is an integral part of its territory and that it will strive, by all available ways and means, to return that occupied territory to the homeland, sooner or later. It also reaffirms its support for Syrian Arab citizens as they resist Israeli occupation and categorically reject the planned project, any landscape alterations, and all other illegal changes imposed by the occupying Israeli authorities on the Golan and its Syrian Arab population. It wishes to stress that it is unacceptable for Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to reject and disregard all United Nations resolutions calling for it to end its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan. All the actions that Israel has taken to change the legal

status, demographic composition and geographical nature of the territory are considered null and void and without effect under international law.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to act immediately to uphold their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to uphold its responsibilities towards the occupied Syrian territory and Syrian citizens living under occupation in it, and to refrain from taking any additional provocative actions that would violate human rights and international humanitarian law and undermine regional security and stability.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative